

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 9

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

March 4, 2005

## Laughlin welcomes home SFS teams

Compiled from staff reports

Nine members of the 47th Security Forces Squadron returned home this week after a seven-month deployment in Iraq.

Friends, coworkers and family members gathered Wednesday at the security forces squadron to celebrate and welcome the group's safe return home following their efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're really excited to have them back on station," said Maj. Aeneas Gooding, 47th SFS commander. "They performed absolutely top-notch during a hard mission which was outside the scope of what security forces normally does."

The commander said the team worked in challenging conditions and under great threat, but stepped up, met the challenges and did great work over there.

"They performed admirably and we're very proud of them, the things they accomplished and the manner in which they represented Team XL and the squadron," he said.

The Airmen who returned were Senior Airman Charles Harrell; Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Arturo Granados, Travis Cleark, Adam Beggs, Charles Harris,



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

**Airmen 1st Class Charles Harris (left) and Travis Cleark, 47th Security Forces Squadron, were greeted by a coworker Wednesday as they return from Iraq. The Airmen were based in Baghdad where they provided security for multi-national forces assigned to assist the Iraqi government.**

Timothy Cooper, James Trussell, and Scott Ramsey, the team's noncommis-

See 'Deployment,' page 4

## Travel card information lost, no evidence of misuse

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said Feb. 25.

The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DOD officials that "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts, and there has been no evidence of fraud or

misuse of the accounts.

Bank of America officials are sending letters to affected employees.

"Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual cardholders has been lost, and it is possible that that information has been compromised, though we don't believe that that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.

Secret Service agents are conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Officials said that al-

though there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," Ms. McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."

The information is personal cardholder information — names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers — on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late De-

See 'Travel card,' page 4

### Newslines

#### Tops in Blue visits Del Rio

The Air Force entertainment group 'Tops in Blue' will be entertaining the Del Rio community today at the Paul Poag Theatre. Doors will be open to base members at 6:45 p.m.

For more information, call 298-5830.

#### Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Maj. Kevin Kent, 84th Flying Training Squadron, is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. today at the Heritage Park.

For details, call Capt. Matthew Manning at 298-4063.

#### Townhall meeting

The 47th Medical Group commander, Col. Laura Torres-Reyes, will host a town hall meeting about changes occurring at the medical group March 29 at 5 p.m. in the base theater. All beneficiaries are invited. Beneficiaries will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns with medical group staff.

For more information on the meeting, call 1st Lt. Lauren Chavez at 298-6312.

#### Special duty briefing

A special duty assignment team will be briefing Laughlin members on military training instructors (MTI), recruiters and other special duties in Anderson Hall from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. April 6.

To obtain an application form, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cunningham at 298-5456.

### Deployment stats

Deployed:	32
Returning in 30 days:	15
Deploying in 30 days:	1

### Mission status

Mission capable rate

(As of Tuesday)

T-38C, 78.8%	T-1, 88.6%
T-38A, 73.8%	T-6, 93.7%

## The little things put smiles on our face



### Commander's Corner

**By Maj. Lori LaVezzi**  
*47th Mission Support Squadron commander*

As you will quickly figure out after reading this, I waited until the last moment (yes, again) to put my thoughts down on paper. But, here goes. Since the ORI, I have heard many people including myself say “Now what?” Everyone has been frantically running for months and months trying to polish, document, fix, and clean every program and facility. That left little time to spend with our families, our co-workers, or our friends. It also left little time to take care of ourselves. I know my house is still (yes, I know Feb. 1 was a month ago) a disaster area. So, my answer to “Now what?” is...take some time to smell the roses.

Of course, today is a gorgeous sunny day, so it may be easier to smell those roses than when it is rainy or cold. But there are many ways to smell the roses. Take time to go to lunch with a co-worker or a spouse. Take a walk or a run. Go home early to see your kids get off the school bus.

Visit a friend. Read a book that isn't required for a professional military education course or degree. Do something just for yourself, something that makes you smile. I find that it really is the little things that make me smile.

A few weeks ago, I spent some time with some of our recently returned Laughlin deployers. Although they were not sure yet what they wanted to do next, they did know what they were not going to eat next. They were very emphatic that they would never eat chicken and rice again. Then, just last week, I spent a few hours with a few of our Laughlin troops just before they deployed. I was so impressed with their vitality and enthusiasm and just sheer good humor. Their banter and smiles were absolutely contagious. This was especially impressive to me because they had to leave a few days earlier than planned when their air transportation changed with no notice.

Last week, I experienced a few more little things that made me smile. One of my senior non-commissioned officers asked me to reenlist him.

Of course, I could not let that great event go by quietly, so I ran around and gathered many of our junior NCOs and Airmen to serve as witnesses. It was gratifying to

see how quickly they dropped everything to be there for one of their own. Although I'm sure that senior NCO would have preferred to have a little less fanfare, spending those few minutes with co-workers was fun.

The next little thing also revolved around a reenlistment. Another troop wanted to make his reenlistment special, so he decided to hold it at the Heritage Park flagpole. At least 15 troops walked with me to the flagpole to witness the ceremony. Of course, being the “Excellent” troops that they are, they could not just stand around in a gaggle to watch. Instead, they formed a horseshoe around the flagpole, stood at attention, and in grand style, served as witnesses to his reenlistment.

So, I urge each of you to take time to do things that make you happy.

As leaders, it is incredibly important that we make sure you have the time to do that. Although, I know the open house and air show as well as another cycle of deployments is fast approaching, each of us must prioritize what is really important and what must be done right now and what can wait just a bit longer. That way we can all take some time to smile, dance, and smell the roses.

## Doing the right thing all the time is about choice

**By Master Sgt. Virginia Schreitmueller**  
*Mathies Airman Leadership School*

ROYAL AIR FORCE FELTWELL, England — I have an idea for a combat program that could be adopted across the full Air Force spectrum. I call it, “Combat CHOICE,” because everything you or I do is about choices.

We choose to do the right things or the wrong things. We choose how to spend our time, what our attitude will be, and what level of effort we put forth on and off duty.

Of course, “CHOICE” not only

is a verb, it is an acronym: community, home, operations, integrity, commitment and excellence.

I choose to call wherever the Air Force sends me, “home.”

I choose to be part of the operations. I get tasked, and I get asked. I get told, and I volunteer.

The mission doesn't happen based on my likes and dislikes. It happens because I choose to ensure whatever needs to be done gets done.

I choose to make integrity the motivation behind all I do. When I say or do something, it reflects on me, my family, my job and my Air Force. I won't compromise any of those things — ever.

I choose to make a commitment to all those aspects in my community, my home, my mission.

I choose to strive for excellence, on and off duty.

It really is all about choosing to do the right things all the time. It is about taking ownership of where I live, how I live, my actions and reactions, every time, everywhere, in all I do. Everything in life comes with choices. No one should have to tell you not to drink and drive, to get a haircut to put in “overtime” to get the job done, or simply to do the right thing.

My parents raised me better. My Air Force expects it to come naturally.

### Border Eagle

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#### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

**Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

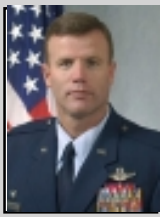
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**Actionline**

**Col. Tod Wolters**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



**Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176
<b>Chapel</b>	298-5111
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299
<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Contracting</b>	298-5439
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
<b>Finance</b>	298-5204
<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
<b>Inspector General</b>	298-5638
<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
<b>Services</b>	298-5810

***"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."***

— 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

## Laughlin, Del Rio proclaim Social Work Month

**By Capt. William Moore**  
47th Medical Operations  
Support Squadron

Tuesday marked the beginning of National Social Work Month. Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala, Col. Laura Torres-Reyes, 47th Medical Group commander, and Laughlin's Life Skills staff commemorated the occasion with a proclamation signing.

This year's theme, "Social Workers. Help Starts Here." invites people to start with social workers when seeking help. It emphasizes the idea that social workers can connect people to a variety of resources in the community.

The Laughlin/Del Rio community has its own share of social workers, but do you know what social workers do at a military base? We help Laughlin members work through personal and work-related issues so that they can stay mission ready and continue to function on the job.

Social workers are active behind the scenes, and our accomplishments are generally unseen by the general population. We tackle issues ranging from stress management to suicide prevention. Some issues are obviously more serious than others.

But the bottom line is that any problem that distracts a member from his or her mission focus is a problem that needs to be dealt with and resolved. We help facilitate that resolution through individual or family counseling, or referral to another specialized agency.

Because of our confidential relationship with our clients, you are probably not aware that a social worker may have intervened when someone you work with needed help most.

They may have been considering suicide, they may have had impulses to hurt someone else like a vulnerable family member, or they may have turned to drinking excessively. In each case, your co-workers or their



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

**Capt. William Moore, 47th Medical Group family advocacy officer, joins Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala Tuesday in a proclamation reading for Professional Social Work Month. The proclamation recognizes and celebrates social workers and their profession.**

troubled family members have turned to clinical social workers to get the help they need. The Air Force exclusively uses Licensed Clinical Social Workers, like me, to oversee the Family Advocacy Program. I also support Life Skills in the mental health mission.

Laughlin's social workers are available to help everyone from newly arriving Airmen to family members.

All of us have a time in our life when we are faced with tough issues that are beyond our coping skills, and we found the need to get help. That is where social workers come in, because "help starts here."

According to Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, National Association of Social Workers executive director, "Many people don't realize that most of the country's

mental health services are provided by social workers...Even more don't know that social workers can be found in hospitals, schools, community health clinics, and even corporations."

Social workers stand up for others. Social workers are there to make sure clients are protected.

We work daily to promote a safe community through education and outreach.

Family Advocacy has a number of brochures with helpful hints on stress management, healthy families, deployment and reunion and more.

For more information on how Family Advocacy is supporting your community, I can be reached by phone at 298-6422 or by visiting the Family Advocacy site on the Laughlin home page, <https://home.laughlin.af.mil>.



Deployment, from  
page 1

sioned officer in charge, stayed behind to train incoming forces. He is expected to return next week.

A five-person security forces team that returned home Feb. 19 from their seven-month deployment in Southwest Asia was also recognized during the welcome home festivities.

They were Capt. Gerald Mulhollen; Staff Sgt. Joshua Aston; and Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Garrett Boyce, William Smith and Adam Battin. Five other Airmen who deployed with the group are due to return soon. They are Staff Sgts. Gregory Leonard, Joseph Joslin and Marina Ramos; and Senior Airmen Keith Combass and Robert Perez.

As head of the five-person team that returned two weeks ago, Captain Mulhollen said he emphasized to the group before their departure in August that this deployment was “for real,” not a run-of-the-mill deployment.

“I told them to take care of each other, do what you’ve been trained to do, play it for real and come home safe,” he said.

This was the first deployment for many of the Airmen and the experience they gained was invaluable.

“I learned a lot as far as security and convoys, and the way things run while deployed,” said Airman Grenados. “Working with other services and interacting



**Airman 1st Class Travis Cleark holds his 10-month-old daughter, Vanessa, after returning from a seven-month deployment in Iraq.**

with Iraqis, learning their lifestyle was interesting, too.”

Airman Vasquez added that he learned to work with the different military branches of service and come together as one to get the mission done.

One unique aspect of the deployments included the newlywed couple of Airmen James and Nidia Trussell serving in Iraq together. The two were not assigned in the same place, however this was their second deployment together to Southwest Asia.

Nidia said her job was not

security forces work she normally does, but she enjoyed the opportunity to work in the legal office and interact with Iraqis.

The first team that arrived home is preparing to return to their normal work following a two-week break.

The group that returned home Wednesday is now looking forward to taking their break. They will have two weeks off to relax and spend quality time with their families before returning to their normal duties here.

**Maintenance manager earns  
AFA civilian-of-the-year award**

**By Pat Watson**  
*47th Flying Training  
Wing Maintenance  
Directorate*

Air Education and Training Command recently announced its 2005 Air Force Association Outstanding Civilian of the Year Awards.

Mr. Mark Hewitt, Deputy Director, 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate, was selected in the civilian senior program manager category.

Mr. Hewitt, who has been with the maintenance directorate since January 2000, was recognized for his outstanding performance as a senior production advisor to the director of maintenance. In this capacity, Mr. Hewitt supervised three sortie-producing divisions along with the component maintenance and maintenance operations divisions. His effort underpinned service for the largest active air fleet in the Air Force.

According to director of maintenance, Robert Wood, Mr. Hewitt’s leadership was essential to evolving mission support. He was responsible for phasing out T-37 aircraft, timely phase-in of T-6 aircraft, and transitioning

into support for modernized T-38C jets. He ensured that a steady supply of safe, reliable aircraft were constantly available for the largest flying training commitment in AETC—94,297 flying hours.

In addition to proactive sortie production, Mr. Hewitt continued his in-service training by completing all key educational requirements of the Defense Leadership and Management Program two years ahead of schedule.

Off-duty, he served as a member of the Del Rio Airport Zoning Advisory Board. He also served on the Editorial Staff for the Journal of Aviation and Aerospace Education and Research; he is Vice President of the Fort Clark Chapter, Military Officers Association of America; and serves as a member of the U.S. Transportation Research Board, Helicopter Subcommittee.

Mr. Hewitt was selected from a field of GS-14 and GS-15 Civil Service nominations that came from wings throughout AETC and its headquarters staff. Later this year, he will represent AETC in Air Force-level competition.

Travel card, from page 1

cember. GSA officials notified DOD on Jan. 19. Ms. McKay said the delay was necessary to protect the integrity of the investigation.

“The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation,” she said. “They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If (cardholders) have any questions, they

can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them.”

Ms. McKay said that consumers should always keep an eye on any credit accounts they have.

“It’s always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements (and) dispute any charges they may question, and also it’s important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report,”

she said.

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is (800) 493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the Bank of America at the number printed on the back of their cards, Ms. McKay said.

“If you are an affected cardholder, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report,” she said.

## Canine units in Afghanistan issued new protective vests

By Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
American Forces  
Press Service

When canine handlers of the 25th Military Police Company conduct extraction missions and area searches in Afghanistan, their highly trained dogs often serve as the main tool for finding weapons and people in hiding.

To counteract the added dangers these dogs face in the line of duty, their ballistic vest equipment has been upgraded.

"These new vests are an upgrade from the current vests the dogs have been using," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Thomas, assistant kennel master for the 25th MP Co. "Before, the vests were only stab proof, which worked well for missions in the states. However, with the additional dangers these dogs are facing during this deployment, they are now wearing vests that are not only stab proof, but also bullet proof."

Although the new vests are slightly heavier than the



Photo by Spc. Cheryl Ransford

**Army Sgt. Danny Rogers, a dog handler with the 25th Military Police Company, is "attacked" by Jordon, a military working dog, during a training exercise at the military-operations-in-urban-terrain training site at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.**

vests the dogs previously used, neither their mobility nor their mission has been hindered by their use. "When the dogs are conducting missions that require them to use the new

vests, they are in areas that could possibly cause them to be injured or killed," said Thomas. "They are the first one into the area looking for people or weapons. They help us find the things we

can't see."

The vests are currently being used by the K-9 units at Bagram Air Base and Kandahar Airfield, said Sgt. 1st Class Erika Gordon, kennel master for the 25th

MP Co. "Even though we only have a few vests at the moment, we are working to get vests for every dog in Afghanistan," she said. "These vests are the dogs' only means of protection. They go in before their handler. It is a matter of 'get them before they get you.' That's why these vests are so important."

The vests are also able to carry all of the dogs' gear, which includes heating or cooling packs. "These vests make us more versatile in what we can do with the dogs," said Gordon.

"Many people may say, 'They're just dogs, why do they need that kind of equipment?' But these dogs are a part of a team and need to be protected just as much as every member of every other team in country," said Thomas.

"These dogs are our partners," he said. "We travel with them, sleep with them and live with them. They are our best friends. Every dog handler will agree that there is nothing we won't do to protect our dogs."

## Electronic pay statements implemented for Air Force civilians

By 1st Lt. Denise Burnham  
Air Education and Training  
Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, — Air Force civilians must use myPay to print their leave and earnings statements beginning March 31 because the Defense Accounting and Finance Service will no longer mail them, said officials here.

The change will affect more than 15,000 Air Education and Training Command civilians, ac-

cording to Maj. Eric Bradshaw, AETC financial services division's finance branch chief.

"Civilians will start receiving the electronic SmartDoc notifications when their pay statements are ready as long as myPay has their current email address," Major Bradshaw said.

"Of course, they will need to have a myPay personal identification number to access it."

To access myPay, new users must sign up for PIN at <http://www.dfas.mil/mypay/>. After logging

in, customers can use the myPay system to view, print and save payroll documents online.

Advantages of using myPay include access to the LES two days before payday, access to the last 26 pay statements, the ability to change direct deposit account information, print W-2s, change W-4 tax withholdings and purchase U.S. savings bonds. Another benefit is the ability to access myPay while at work, home or on temporary duty.

Transactions can occur any time from any location, as long as they

have access to the Internet, Major Bradshaw said.

Ultimately, electronic pay statements save time and resources, he said. The idea is to make more services available online for patrons.

"I think once people start receiving it and see how simple it is, they will like it," Major Bradshaw said.

"When your LES (notice) comes straight to your computer, you don't even have to think about it," he said



## What size?..

An unidentified Air Force Staff Sgt. checks a child's shoe size as he helps deliver shoes to children in the villages near Balad Air Base, Iraq, Feb. 18. Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron started the shoe drive in which more than 1,150 pairs of shoes were donated by individuals and organizations across the United States.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas*

Visit [www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil) for U.S. Department of Defense News about the war on terrorism.

5X10.5

# OSI testifies to Eagle Eyes program working

Compiled by Air Force  
Office of Special  
Investigations Det. 410

In 2001, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations established the Eagle Eyes program, as a global neighborhood watch program to prevent terrorism and criminal activities, which pose a force protection threat to personnel, facilities, and resources in military and civilian communities.

According to Laughlin’s Air Force OSI, communities are asked to be on the anti-terrorism team by being extra eyes and ears of law enforcement and to be aware of activities which belong or don’t belong in and around their base, neighborhood, and community. Suspicious activities could include surveillance-taking pictures, note taking, question asking, tests of security, and individuals attempting to acquire explosives,

weapons, uniforms, or base decals. These types of activities could potentially be targeting activities by terrorist or criminal groups.

During the past four years, there have been thousands of calls from concerned citizens across the Air Force to report suspicious activities. The following are a sample of the types of reports received:

At an Air Force base, a suspicious vehicle with four Middle Eastern males was parked at a credit union directly across from the main gate. Security Forces personnel stated the individuals appeared to be watching the front gate of the installation before leaving at a high rate of speed.

Another base reported a break-in at an off-base storage unit. Several items were stolen, including military uniforms, military documents, dependent identifications, and passports.

An Air Force member reported an unknown female caller contacted him and asked about personnel and asset deployments from his base.

The caller asked about specific type and number of departing aircraft as well as the number of personnel deploying.

In the Midwest, an alleged Middle Eastern male approached a fast food worker and requested information about any local military facilities.

At another base, a known foreign national approached security forces members and asked questions regarding security and search procedures.

The Eagle Eyes program is one of AFOSI’s highest priorities. Every report is investigated immediately and thoroughly. The program has been successful to date due to concerned individuals taking the initiative in being aware of their environment and immediately reporting these activities.

Out of the tens of thousands of reports received, many of the reports assisted in the detection and prevention of potential criminal or violent acts.

“The program has been very successful across the Air Force in detecting and preventing potential criminal and violent activities in our communities,” said Special Agent Tim Peterson, special agent in charge of AFOSI Detachment 410 here.

“Due to its success, the program is now being used by our sister services. It is particularly important here in our environment along the border for military and civilians to report any suspicious activities in our neighborhoods or workplaces.”

Suspicious activities should be reported to AFOSI at 298-5158 or the 47th Security Forces Squadron at 298-5100.



U.S. AIR FORCE  
**EagleEyes**  
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

*Call local Air Force  
Office of Special  
Investigations at  
298-5158 if you have  
information about  
suspicious activity on  
or near Laughlin .*



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rewards  
good ideas with  
money.  
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system at  
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randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil) or  
call Tech. Sgt.  
Thomas Mayo at  
298-4355.**

2x5

2X5

1X3



Cadet research helping NASA return shuttles to space

By John Van Winkle  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Academy research here is helping NASA shuttles return to space.

The shuttle program has been landlocked since the Feb. 1, 2003, loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

This academic year, the academy is assisting NASA’s return-to-flight program by using the skills of instructors and cadets to put a model of the space shuttle through its paces in the aeronautics department wind tunnels.

That research includes the impact of leading edge damage on the shuttle’s wings, said Cadet 2nd Class Matt Karmondy.

“The objective was to see if leading-edge damage would adversely affect lift, drag and stability of the shuttle after reentry,” he said. “It turned out certain damage configura-

tions did raise some concern, and further investigation will be conducted to see if the shuttle has the capability to overcome stability issues caused by wing-leading edge damage.”

The research is being accomplished in the academy’s aeronautics research center. This 38,400 square-foot facility houses world-class experimental and computational facilities, including five wind tunnels, officials said. NASA provided a 1/60 scale model of the shuttle for use in the academy’s subsonic wind tunnel. This tunnel simulates speeds of 50 to 600 feet per second, officials said.

Last semester’s research started with a baseline evaluation of the shuttle model. Once the baseline data was collected, several different leading edges were fitted onto the model, officials said. These changes simulate damage at different locations, allowing researchers to evaluate the resulting changes in pitch, roll, yaw, stabilization and other aerodynamic characteristics of a damaged shuttle.

NASA officials are making a new wing for the model, said Dr. Thomas Yechout, aeronautics department professor and research adviser for the project.

“It will also have a variety of damage configurations along the left wing,” he said. “It differs from the first model wing since it will include a cavity inside the wings’ leading edge, with pressure taps . . . to measure pressure loads in the vicinity of the damaged structure.”

Those pressure changes inside the wing relate directly to the reason for the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, officials said.

Columbia Accident Investigation Board officials said the loss of the shuttle was caused by a piece of insulating foam that separated from the external tank seconds after launch and struck the left wing’s leading edge. Upon re-entry, this breach allowed superheated air to penetrate the leading edge insulation and progressively melt the aluminum structure of the

wing. Columbia broke up at an altitude of 203,000 feet while traveling at Mach 18, just 15 minutes before its scheduled landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., killing all on board, officials said.

“This is an excellent program for the cadets to be involved in, providing very needed and necessary answers to real-world problems, and (providing) wonderful experience for our cadets to do hands-on research work that has a direct impact,” Dr. Yechout said.

“We’ve been involved with NASA, doing wind tunnel investigations, for the past 8 to 9 years,” Dr. Yechout said. “That research and support has evolved through various programs, from the X-38, to orbital space plane design configurations and most recently for (escape capsules) for the next-generation spacecraft.”

The return-to-flight research is one of about 300 undergraduate research projects currently under way at the academy.

## Pennsylvania girl sends shoes to children of Afghanistan

By Samantha Quigley  
American Forces  
Press Service

WASHINGTON — Sometimes it takes a look from a different perspective to realize that Americans take much for granted.

Taylor Barth, a sixth grader from Murrys ville, Pa., got a glimpse of a different perspective from a friend, U.S. Army Capt. Kevin Higgins.

Higgins told Taylor about Afghan children he saw who didn't have some things considered part of everyday life here.

"My friend Kevin Higgins said that the children there had no shoes and I should try to do something about it," Taylor said. "We have all this kind of stuff, like great kinds of shoes and stuff they don't. And they should have the chance to have those kinds of great things."

Taylor, 11, wanted to do something to help, and suggested sending used shoes to Afghanistan.

"It was a small idea. ... at first it was just Kevin felt bad that he saw these kids barefoot and he mentioned it to her," Taylor's grandmother, Barb Barth, said. "She said, 'Grandma, can I mail my old shoes to him?' So we e-mailed him and asked him, and he said he would love it," Barth said.

Higgins was thrilled with the idea, she said.

Taylor started collecting shoes from her friends and her own home. She bought other shoes that were "in good use" from a local thrift shop.

She didn't stop there.

An active participant in the Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church's youth group, she told her peers about her plan to send shoes to Afghanistan.

"(Taylor) ... came into youth group one day and we had some prayer request time," said Danise Pruzinsky, the youth director for the church. "She brought up this situation and told the kids she was sending some of her shoes from home over and asked if anybody else would want to do it.

"They just started talking and looked at me, and I said, 'Well, you could ask the whole church if you wanted to,'" she said.

And that's just what happened.

The administrative board at the church approved of the plan, but said she'd have to wait until after the holiday season. When the holidays ended, Taylor addressed her congregation during Sunday services. According to Pruzinsky, each of the two services draws approximately 250 people. That didn't faze Taylor, though.

"I knew they wouldn't criticize my idea 'cause we were in church," she said.

Pruzinsky said the whole middle school youth group pitched in and decorated collection boxes, handed out fliers and helped pack up the shoes they collected.

"They just all felt like they were part of it," she said. "They brought in shoes; they told their friends; (and) people in the community found out by word of mouth.

"We had people actually send in checks ... to help pay for the shipping,"



Courtesy photo

(From left) Kelsey Barner, Erica Gaussa, Taylor Barth, Nicole Hockenbury and Michael Gaussa, all members of a youth group at Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, pose for a photo with shoes they've collected to ship to Afghanistan. The kids, at the urging of 11-year-old Taylor, collected just over 300 pairs of "gently worn" shoes.

Pruzinsky said.

The collection officially ended Feb. 13. Pruzinsky said Taylor had hoped to get 50 pair of shoes.

She was in for a surprise. "We finished collecting the shoes last Sunday and we collected 288 pairs of shoes," Taylor said.

Even after packing 22 boxes of shoes, the project wasn't finished. The youth group spent one of their meetings filling out customs forms.

Now the shoes are on their way to Afghanistan. The other 14 pair of shoes

that Pruzinsky received at the church Feb. 16 will have to be sent separately.

When they get there, they don't go from the box to the children, Taylor said.

"(The soldiers) hand them to the elders of the village and then the elders pass them out to the children," she said, adding that Higgins will have to pass off his shoebox duties. "He's going to leave (Afghanistan) soon, but we sent (the shoes) to another soldier that was there," Taylor said.

Taylor has always shown leadership qualities,

Pruzinsky said. So her decision to help the children of Afghanistan was not surprising. "I was just shocked at ... her persistence and her willingness to just keep going," Pruzinsky said.

Grandma's reaction was a bit more sentimental.

"I am just really proud of her," Barth said. "I'm really glad that (the youth group) thought ... of people they're never going to meet. ... It was a good connection. She's learned a lot about the world through Kevin, and I think it's enriched her life, too."



# 'Heartlink' gives spouses tour of Air Force lifestyle

Program offers tool kit, easy transition for those new to military routine

By 2nd Lt. Tara Brown  
47th Operations Support Squadron

LES, CGO, MPF, NCO, SEA, FSC...Alphabet soup, or a new military spouse's acronym nightmare?

Air Force spouses, male and female, with less than five years experience can learn about "Air Force-speak," acronyms, customs and courtesies and more from the Laughlin Family Support Center sponsored Heartlink program.

Eighteen new spouses turned out Feb. 24 for the program in the FSC conference room.

Through the door of the conference room, each spouse found a treasure of information immediately available. A folder, provided to each attendee, held a variety of information, and pamphlets such as the "AETC Spouse Handbook: Your Guide to Success", "Balancing Work and Life in the U.S. Air Force", "Protocol Handbook", and even a page on the Air Force Song.

In addition, helpful handouts like "Looking for Employment?" and the "Portable Career and Virtual Assistant Training Program" provided links to career opportunities online and in the local community.

"Success of the day-to-day mission is contingent on you guys; without you we don't have an Air

Force," said Sabrina Peña, director of the Laughlin Family Support Center. Speaking from experience, she differentiated between the civilian sector and the military workplace. "(The civilian workplace is) not like the military lifestyle. You come into the military, and now you're doing functions together and interacting outside the workplace much more often," she said.

Along with the other staff members of the Family Support Center, it is Mrs. Peña's job to transition each spouse from the environment of the civilian workplace to the active engagement of the military life.

That task requires teaching spouses about rules of engagement, base operations, history, finance, Tricare, unit organizations, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, Air Force ceremonies, honors to the flag, and even force protection conditions. Once the spouses had a tool kit of knowledge, it was time to play the "Who wants to be a Mighty Spouse?" Jeopardy-style game and demonstrate what he or she learned.

"What is the Leave and Earnings Statement?" correctly answered Ashley Heyman, wife of Capt. Alexander Heyman, an 85th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot.

Mrs. Heyman said she learned a lot about resources available she previously didn't know how to access. In the past, she said she made all her connections through work, but now she is able to meet spouses on base and build friendships through Heartlink.



Courtesy photo

**Emily Brown, wife of Airman First Class Cie-J Brown from the 47th Operations Support Squadron, uses the Heartlink program as her first opportunity to shake, take (the Air Force Spouse coin), and salute Col. Tod Wolters, 47 Flying Training Wing commander, upon graduation from the Heartlink program. Mrs. Brown and 18 other spouses attended the program Feb. 24 at the Laughlin Family Support Center.**

In the end, each spouse walked away with a new support network because, according to Mrs. Peña, "The best resource is sitting at the table right beside you."

Charlene Wolters has been right beside Col. Tod D. Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, for 22 years. Colonel Wolters closed

the program by saying, "We've discovered that you just can't do it alone; I couldn't have come this far without her."

Overall, the Heartlink program is an overview of military operations; more importantly though, it recognizes the spouses' vital role in every servicemembers' success.

## AF One Source online accesses valuable resources

The Family Support Center provides many resources to help families find a healthy balance between their work and personal lives.

Air Force One Source is one of those resources. Available online 24 hours a day, the program is fast and easy to use. There is no cost to use the service.

Air Force One Source is available anytime of the day or night and

offers programs that provide support, advice, information and referrals on a wide range of personal issues. Access the program online at <http://www.airforceonesource.com>.

The Family Support Center is the base focal point for programs that enhance the quality of life of all Air Force team members.

For more information about the center's programs, visit the office in Building 246 or call 298-5620.

**Laughlin  
Family  
Support  
Center**  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday  
Building 246  
298-5620

DFAS Web site changes location

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site moved to a new location on the Internet, officials announced Saturday.

The old site, [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil), will remain available through March 31. Then, users will be redirected to the new site, [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas), and links to pages on the previous site will generate an error message notifying users of the move, officials said.

Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them accordingly, officials said.

The move will enhance the performance of the site by providing redundancy to prevent down time and by providing an opportunity for enhanced features in the future, officials said.

“Our goal is to provide the best service and products possible to the men and women who defend America,” said Claudia Bogard, the service’s corporate communications director. “With this move, our customers can rely on DFAS for faster access to information whenever they need it from anywhere around the globe at any hour of the day or night.”

Officials said the move

also will provide the following benefits:

- Increase the speed of the site by more than 12 times.
- Improve search capability to allow DFAS content to be found on any of [dod-dot-mil](http://dod-dot-mil) sites.
- Allow DFAS content to be found at [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas), [www.defense.mil/dfas](http://www.defense.mil/dfas), [www.pentagon.gov/dfas](http://www.pentagon.gov/dfas), [www.defense.gov/dfas](http://www.defense.gov/dfas), [www.defenselink.mil/dfas](http://www.defenselink.mil/dfas) or [www.defense.gov/dfas](http://www.defense.gov/dfas).
- Create stronger alignment between DFAS and DOD public Web sites.
- Reduce the burden of public Web traffic to DFAS networks.

The *XLer*

Senior Airman Chiristina Yatsko  
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

**Hometown:** Wilkes-Barre, Pa.  
**Family:** Parents and brother, Michael, 17 years.  
**Time at Laughlin:** Two years, 6 months  
**Time in service:** Three years  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Getting qualified as an AETC instructor  
**Hobbies:** Reading, tubing on the river, camping and going to concerts  
**Bad habit:** Smoking, and speaking my mind too much  
**Favorite movies:** “Orange County” and “Heat”  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My best friend from high school, Melissa... It’s been years since I’ve had a chance to really talk to her.

Chapel information



Catholic

- Monday - Friday* 1 Mass, 12:05 p.m.  
*Saturday* 1 Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment  
*Sunday* 1 Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.  
*Thursday* 1 Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday* 1 Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.  
*Sunday* 1 General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic  
*Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA  
*Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church  
*Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

Air Force News  
ONLINE

Access current news and information at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. With a simple mouse click go to [www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news)



‘Fit to Fight’ warriors to show teamwork through adventure race

By Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi Owolabi  
Editor

It is time for Team XL and those who are “Fit to Fight” to get ready for adventure.

April 23 will be a day for Laughlin members to showcase their fitness levels and teamwork in an eight-person team adventure race. The race begins in front of Anderson Hall and ends at the Air Force Marina on Lake Amistad.

“The eight-person team relay will cover an approximately 20-mile bike ride, six-mile run and a two-mile raft,” said Maj. Rex Calvert, 86th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot and coordinator of the race. “The race is all about teamwork. Participants will bike, run, paddle and finish as a four-person team. The team is comprised of four active participants with up to four additional substitutes. Substitutions may be made during all three events. Each team will consist of members from each workgroup, that is, flight, class or section.”

Just like the Air Force wants its members to be safe while being “Fit to Fight” warriors, the organizers of the race are putting safety first by



Courtesy photo

During the first unit-sponsored adventure race here June 2004, participants lined up in front of the Base Exchange Parking lot awaiting the starting whistle. This year’s wing adventure race (April 23) will begin in front of Anderson Hall and end at the Air Force Marina on Lake Amistad.

starting off the day with a safety briefing 8 a.m. in Anderson Hall to highlight potential dangers along the route.

“Then, the race will start right after the briefing,” said Major Calvert.

The event is open to members within base squadrons, including active-duty members and their families, civilian employees and contractors. Registration for the race costs \$80 per team and is due March 18.

Also, in preparation for the race, the organizing team will conduct a ‘dry run’ March 16 to determine if the

course is good to go.

Major Calvert said a base ambulance will be on call during the race. “We’ll also have designated safety observers in boats on the lake.”

According to the major, each participating team is

required to have a vehicle to carry resting team members. “Each team will provide four bicycles (minimum), helmets, and four life preservers for the rafting event,” he added.

Major Calvert said the first unit-sponsored adventure race here, conducted last year, turned out well and proved to be much fun. He added that this year’s race will not be an exception.

“The purpose of the adventure race is to have fun, work together as a team, and get in shape. I expect people to come out and enjoy themselves,” he said.

For more information or to sign up for the adventure race, members should contact the unit representatives listed below.

Wing Adventure Race Point of Contacts

Units	Name	Phone
Maj. Patricia Rodriguez-Rey	47th Flying Training Wing Staff Agencies	298-5073
Maj. Patricia Rodriguez-Rey	47th Mission Support Group	298-5073
	47th Mission Support Squadron	298-5073
Capt Alan Thode and	47th Operations Support Squadron	298-5080
Capt. Thad Swant	47th Operations Support Squadron	298-5864
Capt. Ryan Hill	47th Medical Group staff	298-6341
Capt. Jason Wetherell	86th Flying Training Squadron	298-5865
1st Lt. Kenneth Isbill	47th Security Forces Squadron	298-5249
1st Lt. Ryan Menath	84th FTS	298-4783
1st Lt. Mike Granberry	85th FTS	298-5848
1st Lt. Rich Jones	87th FTS	298-5223
1st Lt. Tim Lucio	47th Comptroller Squadron	298-5656
Tech. Sgt. Glenn Houtchens	47th Communications Squadron	298-5022
Senior Airman Chae Pak	47th Civil Engineer Squadron	298-5200

Basketball tournament open to servicemembers, families

WASHINGTON – Servicemembers and their families will have an opportunity to compete in a 3-on-3 single-elimination basketball tournament beginning this month at military bases coast to coast.

The tour begins Saturday at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; March 19 at Fort Bragg, N.C.; and moves on to

Fort Knox, Ky., on March 26. The tourney travels to Norfolk Naval Station, Va., on April 2; then on to Fort Hood, Texas, on April 9.

Other military venues in April, May and June include Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Newport Naval Station, Rhode Island; and Fort Belvoir, Va. The tour concludes at Fort Drum, N.Y.,

on June 25.

The 3-on-3 teams will compete for cash prizes: \$1,000 to the top tournament championship team; \$300, second prize; and \$100, third prize.

Players will receive an event T-shirt and spectators and event attendees will have a chance to win more prizes.

Licensed drivers 18 years

or older can test drive cars as well. Also, events will feature video games for all ages, and kids arcade basketball, wireless Internet access to an interactive park where hand-picked DJs will cut and spin a hip-hop soundtrack for the day.

Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine MWR organizations are hosting the tourna-

ments at the installations. Authorized MWR patrons can enter a sweepstakes online for an opportunity to win a variety of prizes.

For more information on the tournament, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

(Courtesy American Forces Information Service)



Go to [WWW.USAFSports.com](http://WWW.USAFSports.com)

View the Calendar for upcoming training camps for soccer, volleyball and taekwondo.



## Cadet blasts academy pentathlon record

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Dierra Poland was the Falcons’ lone competitor in the pentathlon event here Feb. 24, smashing the Air Force Academy record with 3,586 points to finish sixth.

It broke the previous record by 350 points.

Highlighting Poland’s outing was a second-place finish in the shot put with a career-best toss of 41 feet 2 1/4

inches. She also collected a third-place finish in the day’s opening event — the 60-meter hurdles.

Poland clocked a career-best time of 8.63 seconds to finish just 0.02 seconds behind the event runner up.

Poland also posted a career-best distance of 17-10 1/4 in the long jump to finish sixth and jumped 5-1 to finish 11th in the high jump.

Not only did Poland set a new academy record for pentathlon, she also moved into the program’s all-time top-10 list in several events.

She is now ranked second in the hurdles, seventh in the long jump and ninth all-time in the shot put.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News Service)



**Anthony McKinney**  
All-Stars Team Coach  
47th medical Group



**Tech. Sgt. Stephen Wilson**  
Assistant Coach  
47th Medical Group



**2nd Lt. Nathan Olsen**  
Center  
47th Civil Engineer Squadron



**Senior Airman Cedric Lightener**  
Guard  
47th Security Forces Squadron



**Airman Troy Watts**  
Forward  
47th Communications Squadron



**Airman Jerald Davis**  
Forward  
47th Security Forces Squadron

1X2  
Animal House

2X5

## Laughlin leaders, ‘All-Stars’ battle Harlem Ambassadors

By Airman 1st Class  
**Olufemi Owolabi**  
*Editor*

March 9 is a day all sports lovers have been waiting for. The Laughlin leaders and All-Star Team will battle the Harlem Ambassadors at the XL Fitness Center Gymnasium in a friendly basketball match at 7 p.m.

Laughlin will parade in the leadship team, celebrity players, like squadron commanders, group commanders and senior non-commisioned

officers among others, who will substitute with the All-Stars team during the four periods of the game.

Laughlin celebrity players includes:

n Col. Keith Traster, Wing vice commander

n Col. Teresa Daniell, 47th Mission Support Group commander

n Col. Laura Torres-Reyes, 47th Medical Group commander

n Lt. Col. Mike Claffey, 47th Contracting Squadron commander

n Major Gary Barlet, 47th

Communications Squadron commander

n Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez, 47th Medical Group

n Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly, 47th Mission Support Squadron

n Master Sgt. Robin Rutske, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron and

n Master Sgt. Karla Jordan, 47th Operations Group first sergeant.

Laughlin All-Stars will parade talented players, ranging from Airmen to student and instructor pilots, lead by the team coach and assistance coach, Anthony McKinney and Stephen Willson respectively.

Tickets for the game are available for sale at the Outdoor Recreation office, building 511.

For more information, call 298-5830.

2X2





What's  
up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group  
commander

**Question:** I tried to call the Primary Care Manager on-call number during the day to ask a question, but the doctor said the number was only for use outside of duty hours and I needed to call the appointment desk instead. Why can't I use the number during the day when your phone lines are always busy?

**Answer:** The purpose of the PCM on-call number,

703-6199, is for our many beneficiaries to use in the event an urgent medical condition occurs and the clinic isn't open. In such cases, you'll need to call the PCM on-call number for authorization to be seen at Val Verde Regional Medical Center's emergency room or urgent care clinic. Emergency conditions that are a risk to life and limb do not require pre-authorization and should be managed immediately by calling 911. The PCM on-call phone is available Monday through Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m., and all day weekends and holidays. In the event the PCM on-call phone is outside of a service area, you can page the individual at 298-5444, extension 3718. During duty hours, our physi-

cians are fully engaged taking care of patients within the clinic, and are not readily available to answer questions. When you call the clinic during duty hours, our appointment desk staff will be able to direct your call appropriately, and give prompt guidance if urgent care authorization is required. I apologize that you have been having difficulty accessing our appointment phone line. We have been working very hard organizing our phone system to serve you better, and you should see marked improvements in the near future. Thank you for your question! You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

Sports writers  
needed

If you are interested in writing sport stories for the base paper, contact the public affairs office at 298-5988.

Intramural Basketball  
Standings

Team Name	Win	Loss
86th	15	1
LCSAM	14	3
CES	8	8
CCS	8	8
MSS	8	8
84th/85th	7	8
SFS	6	10
87th	5	11
MDG	1	15



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Let's hoop it up...

Lydell Hudson (above) and Ryan Dobbins (right), members of Laughlin's varsity basketball team, take on the Goodfellow Hawks' defense during a game Sunday at the XL Fitness Center Gymnasium. Laughlin hosted a two-game series with the Hawks last weekend. Goodfellow won the first game 75-72 Saturday, but Laughlin returned on Sunday to defeat the Hawks 96-79.

